

accepted the proposed cuts, but in other cases we had to restore cuts in programs that have broad bipartisan support in the Senate.

Restoring these cuts, while funding programs that are important to all Americans, has been very difficult, given the very tight limits on discretionary spending contained in the budget resolution. I did not vote for that budget resolution, but we have worked together on a bipartisan basis to produce bills that are within their 302(b) allocations. We do not have unlimited resources at our disposal, so we have been forced to make difficult decisions. Nevertheless, we believe the bills that the committee brought to the Senate have been fair, balanced, and served the needs of the American people.

We have held the line while making sure that we kept our promise to our Nation's veterans, we have helped the poor move to a better life by rebuilding neighborhoods, we have protected the environment and invested in science and technology and we have funded disaster relief programs in response to floods and other natural disasters to provide assistance to our citizens in their time of need.

We have funded our Nation's transportation systems to promote safe travel on our roads, in the air and on our waterways. We have invested in our Nation's energy independence and funded our natural resource programs. We have invested in our Nation's infrastructure for bridges and dams and navigation projects.

I thank the many Senators who have dedicated themselves to this task and I look forward to working to send thirteen bipartisan and fiscally responsible appropriations bills to the President. I have spoken with the House Appropriations Committee Chairman BILL YOUNG and the Ranking Member DAVID OBEY and urged them to move quickly to conference on the appropriations bills. I had pressed the House to complete conference action on two of the bills before the August recess, but the House did not name their conferees. However, our staffs will be working during August to resolve differences between the House and Senate bills so that we can go to conference on several of these bills when Congress returns in September.

I am committed to producing 13 bills this year. We should not go down the road employed in recent years of producing omnibus appropriations bills that rob Members of the opportunity to read, let alone understand the contents of the bill. We intend to work together on a bipartisan basis to meet the challenges that lay before us.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. For the information of our colleagues, there will be three votes shortly on three nominees that

we will take from the Executive Calendar. We are in the process of drafting a unanimous consent request to accommodate debate and the vote on those three nominees.

I urge colleagues to stay in proximity of the building and the floor because these votes will happen shortly. The distinguished chair of the Judiciary Committee has reported them out, and I thank him and applaud him for his expedited work on these nominations. There will be a short debate and then there will be votes. They will not be stacked, but as I understand it, there is a request for time on each of the nominees.

We will have those votes and, hopefully, at that point, we will be able to announce further legislative business.

Mr. LEAHY. If the distinguished leader will yield, it is my understanding—and I have not had a chance to speak with the distinguished ranking member, but I hope there will be a very short time on these nominees on statements, in such a way that the leader will be able to propound, if he wishes, a request that the last two of the three votes be 10-minute votes.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, if we can accommodate all Senators with that understanding, we will make that part of the request. If Senators wish to be heard on these nominations, I hope they will let us know. Shortly, we will propound that unanimous consent request.

Mr. LOTT. If the majority leader will yield, he is not propounding a unanimous consent at this point?

Mr. DASCHLE. Shortly. Not at this point.

Mr. LOTT. The majority leader is to designate a short period of time for each one of these nominations; is that right?

Mr. DASCHLE. It was my understanding that there were requests for time on each nominee. If there is not, then it is my desire to have a period during which Senators could speak to the nominees and we would have three stacked votes.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Senator for yielding.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to executive session to consider the nominations reported out earlier today by the Judiciary Committee: William Riley to be a Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, Sarah

Hart to be the Director of the National Institute of Justice, and Robert Mueller to be the Director of the FBI.

I ask unanimous consent that I can request the yeas and nays on each with one show of seconds, and that prior to the votes on these nominees, there be 10 minutes of debate equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee; that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions, and that the Senate return to legislative session; and that the second and third votes in the series be 10 minutes in length.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the votes on these nominations, the Senate then resume consideration of the Agriculture supplemental bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I ask that the unanimous consent request be amended to provide for a vote on Lugar amendment No. 1212, with 60 minutes of debate prior to the vote on the cloture motion.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I object to that temporarily. I need to consult with my colleagues and certainly the chair and the manager of the bill, but perhaps that is something we might be able to do. We will certainly work with the Republican leader to provide him with some information in that regard at a later date.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, further reserving my right to object, I appreciate the spirit in which Senator DASCHLE made his comments. We are going to try and find a way to get the Agriculture supplemental appropriations bill done, and done in a reasonable period of time, certainly before too late tomorrow.

I want to add to that, I appreciated what he had to say earlier tonight about his willingness to try and find a way to get completion on this bill, even tonight, so we would be able to go ahead and go to our constituents and our families tomorrow. I doubt it is going to be possible to do that, but we are still looking for a way. I appreciate his attitude, but at this point I understand his hesitancy, and I feel constrained to object to going straight to the cloture vote. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is noted.

Mr. DASCHLE. With that objection, it is likely the final vote on the nominations tonight will be the last vote, and we will then have the cloture vote tomorrow morning at 9:30.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.